



Small Projects Day, Section 1: Project Proposal

1. **Responsible Official:** Martina Barnes, Manchester District Ranger
2. **Project Name:** Spruce Peak VAST Trail Additions
3. **Project Location:** Towns of Manchester and Winhall, Bennington County, VT
4. **Project Contact:** Rob Abrams
5. **Purpose and Need:**

Two sections of trail (1.1 miles total) in the Spruce Peak area are currently listed on Vermont Association of Snow Travelers' (VAST) trail maps. To ensure maintenance is conducted to Forest Service standards and provide for public safety on these sections of trail, they should be added to the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) trail inventory as snow trails, designed use snowmobile, Class 3 (FSH 2309.18 – Trails Management Handbook, Section 23.33). Recording the trails on Forest Service maps and the GMNF trail inventory would also be an important step in reducing discrepancies between Forest Service and VAST maps which can be problematic for law enforcement purposes.
6. **Project Description:**

VAST maintains a section of snowmobile trail between Route 7 in Manchester and Route 11 in Winhall that joins with Forest Trail 362 (Spruce Peak) after crossing Route 11. A recent GMNF acquisition north of Johnnycake Street in Manchester encompasses roughly 0.4 mile of this existing trail. There are no water crossings on the Forest Service owned section and no additional trail construction is required.

VAST also maintains a section of trail about 0.7 mile long east of Forest Road 319 (Rootville Road) that connects Forest Trail 383 and Forest Trail 365 and is not currently listed in the GMNF trail inventory.

These trail sections would be added to the GMNF Trail inventory and designated for snowmobile use. No new trail construction would occur.
7. **Forest Plan Management Area:** Green Mountain Escarpment, Diverse Forest Use
8. **Forest Plan Compliance:**

Goal 12: Provide a diverse range of high-quality, sustainable recreation opportunities that complement those provided off National Forest System lands:

 - Increase the effective use of partnerships in the improvement, maintenance, and operation of the Forest trails system.
 - Increase the number of miles of trails that are operated and maintained to full standard.

Goal 14: Provide a safe, efficient, and effective Forest transportation system that meets both the needs of the Forest Service and the public.
9. **Exclusion Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(e)(1) Construction and reconstruction of trails.
10. **Expected Implementation Date:** May 2021

